

Welcome to the Legislative Update for March 16, 2012

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. The information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. The *Legislative Update* is non-partisan in nature. Thank you for your interest!

2nd REGULAR SESSION OF THE 50TH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Action

During the past week, 774 floor actions were filed; 93 of those related to legislation tracked by the Council on Aging. (See **FULL LIST** link)

Today marks the deadline for House committees to hear Senate bills and the Senate committees to hear House bills.

Senate calendar:

<http://www.azleg.gov/alispdfs/50leg/senate/senatedeadlines.pdf>

House calendar: <http://www.azleg.gov/alispdfs/50leg/house/housedeadlines.pdf>

Both the House and the Senate are adjourned until Monday, March 19th at 1:30 p.m.

Legislation

Administrative and legislative action on some of the bills tracked by the Council on Aging is outlined here with fact sheets from the Arizona State Legislature or summaries provided by *Arizona Capitol Reports' LOLA* and found on the **FULL LIST**.

The Governor has signed several bills the Council has tracked. Some of the bills that may be of interest include:

S1003: Homeopathic Board; Qualifications of Applicants

House Summary 3.15.2012: http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.sb1003_03-15-12_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf

S1004: Dental Hygienists; Local Anesthetics

House Summary 3.15.2012: http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.sb1004_03-15-12_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf

S1126: World War II Memorial

House Summary 3.1.2012: http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.sb1126_03-01-12_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf

S1293: Veterans' Organizations; Solicitations

House Summary 3.9.2012: http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.sb1293_03-09-12_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf

The following legislation has been signed resulting in the continuation of these boards or departments:

S1002: Nursing Board; Continuation

S1005: Dispensing Opticians Board; Continuation

S1006: Medical Board; Continuation

S1007: Board of Chiropractic Examiners; Continuation

S1058: Department of Veterans' Services; Continuation

S1339: Department of Housing; Continuation

Legislative Action

H2063: Community Health Centers; Walk-In Patients, 3/15 Senate Committee of the Whole (COW) approved with rules tech amendment.

H2259: Dental Board; Omnibus, 3/15 passed Senate 25-5; ready for the Governor.

H2526: Skilled Nursing Home Provider Assessments, 3/15 from Senate Healthcare & Medical Liability Reform Committee with amendment.

H2655: Developmental Disabilities Services; Providers; Monitoring, 3/15 from Senate Public Safety & Human Services Committee with do pass.

H2674: Central Repository; Nonprofit Organization, 3/15 from Senate Committee of the Whole (COW) approved with floor amendment.

H2713: Insurance Premiums; Long-Term Care; Deduction, 3/14 from Senate Appropriations with amendment.

S1177: DES Contractors; Unpaid Personnel; Fingerprinting, 3/14 House Health & Human Services held.

Hearings next week: Be sure to check the listing of hearings as they are scheduled next week on the Council's **FULL LIST** link provided below.

At the end of day **68** of the legislative session, **1,395** bills posted; **65** passed; **40** signed by the Governor; **143** memorials or resolutions posted; **20** passed. Several of the bills may be of interest to Arizona seniors and will continue to be tracked by the Council and appear on the Legislative Update web page. **Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's tracking list does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It does mean** that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on older Arizonans so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24822&listid=45455&print=true>

Note: The FULL LIST website link above provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and **is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.**

This list will continue to be edited as we track actions taken. Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

Arizona's Official Transparency Web Site - single point of reference for citizens to view information about the financial activities of the State of Arizona:

<http://www.openbooks.az.gov/>

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your legislators at any time, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 (outside Maricopa County only) or you may **contact the legislator from your area.**

You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature website** <http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* **or** by following the instructions provided at both the **Senate** and **House Member** links at the website.

If you would like to learn more about how a bill becomes law, see these links at the Arizona State Legislature's website: <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/BillToLaw.pdf> and <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/hbillaw.pdf>.

If you want to know who serves on the House and Senate Standing Committees, go to: <http://www.azleg.gov/StandingCom.asp> and click on the committee name.

FEDERAL OVERVIEW:

H.R.4149

Title: To amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to clarify that the value of certain funeral and burial arrangements are not to be considered available resources under the supplemental security income program.

Introduced on 3/6/2012 by Representative Steve Southerland (FL-2)

On 3/6/2012, referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R.4144

Strengthening Economic Development Through Affordable Housing Act of 2012 To amend the State Small Business Credit Initiative Act of 2010 to allow participating States to provide program funds to community development housing organizations for development of affordable housing.

Introduced on 3/6/2012 by Representative Joe Baca (CA-43)

Section 3003(c) of the State Small Business Credit Initiative Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5702(c)) is amended to develop, acquire, construct, rehabilitate, maintain, operate, or manage housing projects that provide housing that is affordable for low- or moderate-income households, as determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

On 3/6/2012, referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

S.1813

Related bills: H.R.3810, H.R.3833, S.1816

On Thursday, March 14th, the Senate passed their transportation bill S.1813; transportation advocates at Reconnecting America praised "bipartisan support for maintaining and strengthening the nation's infrastructure" and continuing current funding levels through FY 2013. Uncertainty surrounds the House bill draft.

NOTE: If you want information specific to a bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Share your opinions with your Congressional Members!

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**. Links to the membership lists include: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/> for the **House** and http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm for the **Senate**.

You can contact the White House at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>.

A compilation of contact information is provided at:
<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

Other News:

Administration on Aging

March 2nd announcement regarding funding for older adults:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/For_The_Press/pr/archive/2012/March/2012_03_02.aspx

May is Older Americans Month:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Observances/2012/Older_Americans.aspx

Latest information on the **National Alzheimer's Project Act:**

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of Community Health website: <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dch/>

National Institutes of Health

Halt the Hurt! Dealing with Chronic Pain:

<http://newsinhealth.nih.gov/issue/Mar2012/Feature1>

From the National Council on Aging (NCOA)

As part of National Nutrition Month, NCOA offers a map of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) resources at:

http://www.benefitscheckup.org/cf/snap.cfm?utm_source=NCOAWeek_120313&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=NCOAWeek.

Arizona link:

http://www.benefitscheckup.org/cf/snap_state.cfm?state=Arizona&partner_id=0&org_id=0

World Health Organization

World Health Day focus on *Ageing and health*: <http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2012/en/index.html>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: 15th Annual Pinal & Gila Elder Abuse Conference

WHEN: March 29 & 30, 2012, Thursday 8 am to 5 pm, Friday 8 am to 12 pm, Apache Gold Casino Resort, 5 miles east of Globe on Hwy 70, San Carlos, AZ 85550

For more information: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/GACA/Newsletter/2012/EASTConfBrochure2012.pdf>

WHAT: Free Diabetes Health Fair, *Healthy Living: Preventing & Managing Diabetes Every Day!*

WHEN: Saturday, March 31, 2012, 9 am to 12:00 pm, Midwestern University, 19555 North 59th Avenue, Glendale AZ 85308

For more information, call 602-861-4731 Ext. 7094 or visit diabetes.org/phoenix

WHAT: Legal Options to Guardianship Trainings

WHEN: April 25, 2012 in Yuma, AZ; **May 2, 2012** in Tucson, AZ; **May 9, 2012** in Casa Grande, AZ and **July 25, 2012** in Flagstaff, AZ.

For more information including times and location, go to:
<http://www.azgovernor.gov/GACA/Newsletter/2012/LegalOptionsFlyersRuralCounties2012.pdf>

Also: Coming in **June & August 2012** at the Disability Empowerment Center, 5025 East Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ

- **June 13, 2012 from 9 to 11 am**
- **August 1, 2012 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm and Priorities Forum from 4 to 6 pm**

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/GACA/Newsletter/2012/LegalOptionsFlyersMaricopaCounty2012.pdf>

From *The Caregiver Connection* March 2012 Newsletter:

HEALTH FAIR in Peeples Valley, March 24 from 10 am to 2 p.m.

Presented by Weaver Mountains Care Resources and the Community Presbyterian Church of Yarnell, this free event will feature informational booths and presentations in the categories of hospitals and education, end of life, service organizations, therapists, alternative medicine, medical service agencies, doctors, care for the aged, and pharmaceutical assistance. Location will be the Model Creek Elementary School, 18912 Hays Ranch Road. For information, call (928) 231-9341.

Just in case you're interested:

Back issues of the ***Legislative Updates*** are linked on the Council website at:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.asp>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, be sure to send an email with the description to: **gaca@az.gov**. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

We appreciate your patience with our formatting issues as we work to resolve them.
Enjoy your weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging